

Thinking it over

2. a) Use information from the text and painting to list characteristics of the coureurs des bois' life.

Characteristics of the coureurs des bois' life is that they are the runners of the woods, the name given to the Europeans who travelled inland to trade for furs. The coureurs des bois were traders who left the colony to trade directly with the trappers and hunters. In 1656, the first coureurs des bois brought a huge load of pelts back to New France.

b) Find out more information about the life of the coureurs des bois. Why did so many young French men go to live in the high country?

Médard Chouart des Groseilliers and Nicolas Forget arrived with 50 canoes crammed with beaver pelts. The coureurs des bois were operating illegally, and had to be very careful. A lot of young men went to live in the high country because it was now legal for the people in New France to trade with the first nations. They went to the pays d'en haut which is the highlands inland where they often lived with the First Nations peoples. They were away from the colony for months, even years.

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1. In your own words, describe the layout of a typical seigneurie. Pay particular attention to the shape of the fields.

Seigneurs were men who had won the king's favor. They might have been soldiers or supporters of the king in France. The king rewarded them by granting them a seigneurie in New France. The seigneur retained a large section to provide a site for a church, a lumber mill, a grain mill. It was set beside the river to provide water for farming and personal use, for transportation by canoe, and for fishing.

2. Why were the filles du roi such an important force in helping to develop New France? Explain your answer.

The filles du roi were an important part of New France. They helped to develop the colony by providing stable families. Without their hard work and motherly skills, New France would not have expanded as fast as it did.